





we are the generation.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and efforts, against unreasonable searches and azizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon pechable cruse, supported by Cath or affirmation.

or immunities of citizens of the United Stones; por shall any State deprive any person of life. liberty,

or property, without due process of law; nor dany

to any person within its jurisdiction the equal pro-

respective numbers, counting the whole number

of persons in each State, excluding leafants not

stood. But when the eight to vote at any election.

for the choice of electors for President and Vica-

President of the United States, Representatives in

Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a

State, or the musibers of the Legislature thereof,

is denied to any of the male inhabitance of such

State, being twenty-use years of age, and chizens

of the United States, or in any way abridged, ex-

sept for participation in sebellion, or other crime.

in the propurtion which the manber of such make

citizens twenty-rave years of age in such State.

Representative in Congress, or elector of President

and Vice President, or hold any office, rivil or mili-

tary under the Utilitied States, or under any State.

who, having previously taken an oath, as a mem-

ber of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or

as an executive or judicial reficus of any State, to

support the Constitution of the United States, shall

have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against

the same, or given aid or conduct to the engages

thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds.

United States, authorized by law, including dates incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for

services in suppressing insurrection of rebellion.

shall not be questioned. But neither the United

Section 4. The wilday of the public debt of the

of each bloose, remove such disubility.

Section 3. No person shall be a Senator or

Section 1. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their

I the executive Departments. clating to the Duties of their nd he shall have Person to grant. done for Offenses egainst the pi in Cases of Impeachment. bwer, by and with the Advice e Semile, in make Treaties. of the C-

tection of the Insy.

The Trial of all Crimes

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2001942110 *Changed by the Twenty-Fifth Amendment. things to be selzed. obsession and

chapes, every by furn; a school floor d; feet with a Trial stra

he Senators and Representatives before mend, and the Members of the several State Legises, and all executive and judicial Officers, both te United States and of the several States, shall ound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this stitution; but no religious Test shall ever be reed as a Qualification to any Office or public. st under the United Stores.

citizens shall bear to the whole number of make sent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand. even hundred and Eighty seven and of the In-

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the Authority of the United States, shall be specime Law of the Land; and the Judges in State shall be bound thankly, any Thing in constitution or Laws of any State to the Conperwithstanding.

Article, VII.

The Ratification of the Corwentions of nine ten shall be sufficient for the Entablishment of a Constitution between the States so ratifying. the basis of sepresentation therein shall be reduced the flame.

done in Convention by the Unanimous Conspendance of the United States of America the witth in Witness whereon We have herequely subribed out Newvis.

and deputy from Vages

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New York: Alexander Hamilton

Will: Livingston David Breakley ona: Dayton:

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Georgia: William Few

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"Home again" Dan sighed to himself as he stared around the walls of his apartment. As he spoke his eyes settled on the map on the far wall above the fireplace, stuck with bright pins. On the walls surrounding him, postcards and national geographic snapshots of bustling cities, foreign and crowded. As he loosened his tie, Dan stepped to get a closer look at the world on his wall. He fumbled in a basket on the mantle, searching through old keys, suit buttons, blindly feeling for the pin prick. After a few seconds of rustling, he found the exact point he was looking for! Gripping the plastic handle, he raised his elbow and crossed a continent to thrust the pin into the map and wedge apart the cork beneath it. That was his favorite part. There he was, hundreds of plastic pins. Hundreds of me complete with their own little shadows. Pretty good! he thought as he loosened his belt buckle in his hands.

There was a family in one of the pictures on the wall over his bed that he saw as he turned away from the map to loosen his collar and strip off his dress shirt. He folded his shirt and black pants on his desk and went to the bathroom for a comb and a shave. As he stared in the mirror, the map's reflection outlined his head, as it did after every shave after every trip. Dan washed his face, brushed his teeth, took his vitamins, and stretched before bed.

Dan stared straight into the ceiling with a piercing gaze, alone in his sheets in the darkness.

"I wish I could see the stars," he drifted off.

"How's the family, Dan?"

Dan shifted a little with the weight of traffic as the black car pulled him around the turn onto M street.

"Oh great, I'm sure. Got down to the beach yesterday, said it was sunny and warm."

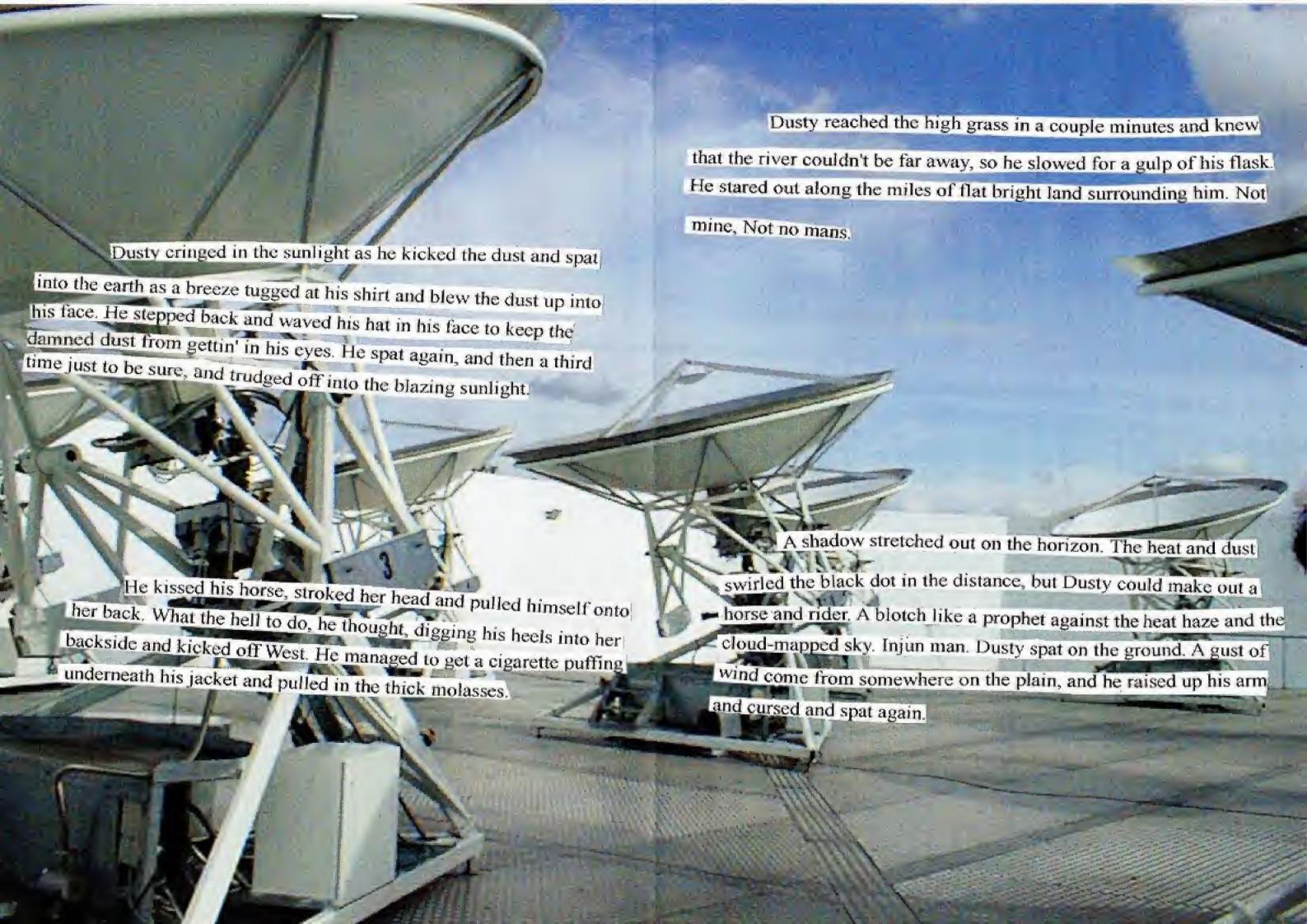
"Sure could use that here"

Dan smiled at his assistant. Jean wore a tight, yet modest white and grey suit that matched his own quite well. Jean was adjusting her lipstick in the metallic dark of the windowpane. Dan heard the artificial click of her lipstick case and caught the reflection of her lips in his own window. Jean wore a blue and silver shawl that he actually quite liked, and that was a new one.

Dan shuffled the papers on his lap. He began to read through the day's bulletins, mostly car bombs and round table discussions. Someone important had drowned. Also, the UN was meeting today again, but Dan would not attend this year. He had had to decline the gold trimmed invitation. Dan sighed. Such was life. He smiled at the driver as he lifted himself out of the car. He had dreamed about his wife last night. They waited in the beach sand, naked and entangled together, eyes on each other with the rush of the wind and waves encircling them. She and him must have been both younger, it felt that way. She smiled and looked out onto the waves, then got up and beckoned him to come look beyond the waves but all he could see was fog, but she asked him again and again and he couldn't. She took his hand and he followed into the waves. They waded in the surf and the further they stepped the more she disappeared, like sand in the surf. They kissed and huddled together, and lay together in the surf. He felt himself disintegrating too, flowing into the sand and surf and her. "I wish you'd had seen" she whispered, "but it's OK." He was gone.

Dan coughed and stretched his back briefly, picked up his

briefcase and marched on forward, Jean and another assistant in his wake. Up and through the concrete block, past security with a nod, to the metal elevator box that would bring him to his floor. Dan held his breath. He hated elevators, hated the pull upwards, the emptiness that the metal thread yanks you through. The moment of weightlessness when it pulls you out of the ground. Can't believe we trust these things, he thought.



Dan arrived in an empty lobby, through the automatic doors in a tired daze. The fireplace to the right of the room projected the flickering shadow of his suit and briefcase onto the marble floor. He coughed, stretched, and marched up to the ornate desk to conduct business.

"Do you have a pool?" he asked, roomkey in hand

"Of course, sir. The waterslide, however, has been closed indefinitely. I apologize for the inconvenience."

"Oh dear!" Dan smiled and turned to Jean beside him, who returned an exhausted, almost sad, grin.

"Yes, there was an accident earlier this evening, please do not be alarmed, however, we are handling the situation with care. Please let me show you to your rooms. You must be very tired."

"That's alright, thank you. I've actually been here before, had the same room too."

"As you wish, sir."

Dan and Jean said goodnight in the elevator. The metal doors closed her out, and Dan felt the tug of the floor, the ground pulling him up. Dan stumbled out of the metal box into the hallway. He shook himself to flail off the daze of exhaustion and yawned for his bed at home.

He dropped his briefcase on the bed and stared out the window while loosening his tie and unbuttoning his shirt. It was so dark. He couldn't make out square towers and official buildings in the distance. Just a blur of color. It was still beautiful. Everywhere is beautiful. Rotating back to the room, he teetered and lost his weight for a second.

He tossed his shirt on the bed and followed it face first into the covers. He heard the steam release from an old radiator in the corner.

God, I haven't been this exhausted for months, so tired. Exhausted.

His eyes closed upon images of Molly again at the beach, sand gripped in his hands and his toes. The waves rumbling in the static of the surf. static static

Cold. His room, his walls, his map above the fireplace.

Frantically searching for a pinprick- he felt it! But my hands huge and so clumsy and the darkness seeping into the frame. Damp edges curling and darkening and the colors bleeding. He reached up for his map and his spot to prick, and his vision nodded, his balance teetering in some great current. One more, he thought, one more

Dusty cringed up into the black silhouette of the Indian, blinded by the burning halo streaming over the man's shoulder. He spat on the earth. Piles of fur and feathered robes cast a heavy shadow that caught Dusty with a spotlight on the plain. Dusty absorbed into the shadow of the man. No, not the man's. Not the Injun's. His clothes, his horse, his heaps of voodoo. But not the man's. No man can hold that shadow.

"Lemme look."

A hand extended clutching a ziplock bag above Dusty in the glare. The arm bent a little in the sunlight under the weight, or maybe the sunlight just made it look heavy. Dusty scrutinized the dirty stems.

"S'ppose they look alright." He took the plastic bag and filled the open palm with a few crumpled dirty bills. The hand retracted back into the figure. The man counted, looked down at Dusty, and spoke something to his horse. They turned back into the sun and trudged into the distance, rocking to the side with each step under the weight of the furs and blankets and bundles.

Dusty lifted the bag up at eye-level. Roots and dirt. He dropped his gaze, poured the earth into his hand, and dropped it into his mouth. Tastes like shit.

He could hear the river from here, the water crisp and clear and playful.

A tree casts a shadow bigger than a man's. So tall, so big, so heavy it looks like someday it will collapse onto itself. Or maybe the weight will just push push into the earth until it comes out the other side like a lost pin in a cushion.

Dan was on his way to the hospital because he couldn't

breathe. The cab pulled him forward and he leaned with its weight.

Molly. Have to call Molly. But was she gone? Out in the waves somewhere? Maybe pulled out into the horizon where I cannot see. Drifted into the water and the sand. I should have gone with her, he thought. I should be there now.

Heavy heavy breathing, it's not me though it's the air. The weight of the air is so much more here, like its compressed. Am I underwater? That wouldn't explain it would it. Why everything is so much heavier. Underwater it would be lighter, I would be lighter. I don't want to be light without her.

This wasn't water. It's too dry. This is new. It pulls the moisture out of my lungs. It crumbles me from the inside out. I feel like chalk. I miss them I miss her. I love you. She knows, and that's what's important. That's what's important.

Dan checked himself into the emergency room. He asked for a seat but they brought him a bed on wheels. Pulled along again he thought about the beach. The sand and the water that his mom had whispered about whenever he couldn't sleep. He was there with Molly now. Alone and together. The breeze was warm and the moon glowed and the surf crushed again and again and again. Molly was so beautiful in the sand.

Dusty flailed in the rushing water. He clawed into the clay and pebbles, digging and yanking at the riverbed. He rolled and fought the waves and made his shoulders broad. It was prying him, pulling pulling from me. Down the river away from here to the sound of static.

They are cold and drenched and disintegrating like sand. Bit by bit down the river. The rush sound of static. Always rushing always pulling down and away the past; it's always been like this.

I am Atlas against the current.

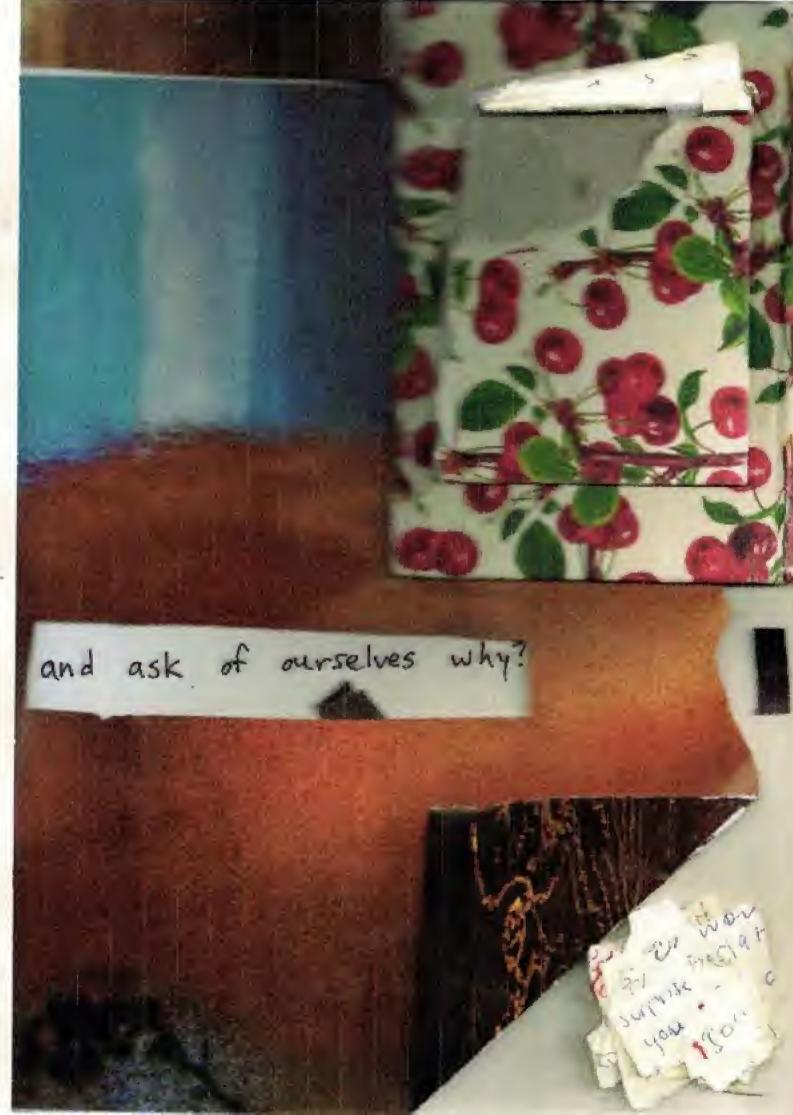
I can tell their faces disintegrate into the water. And me, my shadow wet stretched so long pulled down too down by the river. Like an egg leaking out of a cracked shell, white and thin and oozing out into the current. He wished Jane was with him, but now she was gone too.

The static rush. Water. The weightlessness. I am flowing away.

Dusty flailed and clawed the riverbed and screamed until stars

scattered across the night sky.







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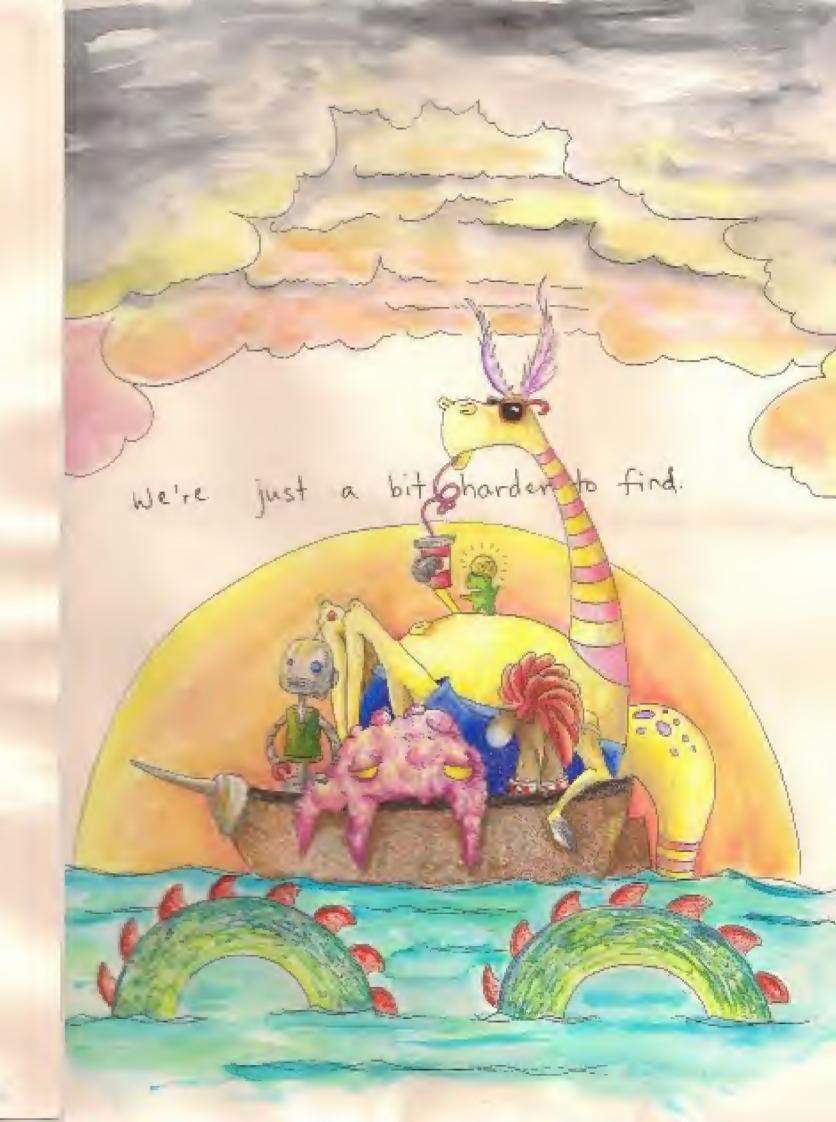




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